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Metro

Park site cleanup not done, city says

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CHICAGO -- A private company that agreed to pay for the environmental cleanup of a downtown park site proclaimed the work finished Friday, but Chicago Park District officials said they believe the work is not done.

The site north of the Chicago River and east of Lake Shore Drive is the future home of a park honoring Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, the city's first settler.

Kerr-McGee Corp., a successor company to one that used radioactive thorium to make gas lamps nearby, on Thursday began what it estimated as a two-day cleanup of the site. A spokeswoman for the company, Debbie Schramm, said Friday that workers had "removed all of the material that is outlined in the plan" for the cleanup.

But Park District General Supt. David Doig said the district has written a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency saying it believes there still is material that should be part of any environmental cleanup.

EPA officials familiar with the project were unavailable for comment late Friday.